

and two Democrats; commerce, one Republican and one Democrat; rivers and harbors, two Republicans; foreign affairs, two Republicans and one Democrat; military affairs, one Republican and two Democrats. The three vacancies on ways and means are attracting special attention, among those mentioned for the places being Moody and McCall, of Mississippi; Littlefield, of Maine, who succeeded Dingley, and William Allen Smith, of Michigan.

### THREE SENATE CAUCUSES.

Reorganization of Committees Considered by All the Parties.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Three caucuses were held in the Senate today of the Capitol to-day. They were under the auspices, respectively, of the Republican, the Democratic and the Independent senators, the last-named including the Silver Republicans and the Populists, and each considered the reorganization of the Senate committees. In each instance the detail work was referred to special committees.

Senator Allison was empowered by the Republican caucus to select a committee of nine to confer with the opposition and make the apportionment of members. There was a suggestion that the Republican representation on committees should be in proportion to the Republican membership of the Senate, and in reply to a question Senator Allison said the Republicans numbered about five-eighths of the entire Senate. After some discussion the suggestion was abandoned because of the fact that such a demand in the Senate would have upon the House, where the Republicans have proportionately a much smaller majority than in the Senate, a general understanding that the Republicans should have a clear majority on all committees.

Senator Hale moved a committee on insular possessions of the United States and on the suggestion of Senator Lodge agreed to amend his motion so as to provide for two new committees, one to cover Cuba and the other to include affairs of Porto Rico and the Philippines. The motion was referred to the proposed committee on committees, but no disposition was made at the suggestion, made near by Senator Mason, that he, Senator Hoar and Senator Hale should be given places on the proposed Philippines committee. The conference really decided the whole subject to the committee on committees, which Senator Allison promised to appoint promptly.

The Democrats transacted no business beyond the selection of Senator Jones, of Arkansas as chairman of the committee on commerce, and the authorization of the chairman to appoint a committee to confer with the House on the subject of the reorganization of the standing committees.

The Independents agreed to act with the Democrats in the reorganization of the Senate and Senator Pettigrew was appointed to act as a member of the minority committee on committees. This conference was attended by all the Silver Republican and Populist senators, of whom there are eight.

### WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

Reduction of Military Force in Cuba Ordered by Mr. Root.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Formal orders were issued from the War Department today to give effect to the recently announced decision of Secretary Root to reduce the force of United States troops in Cuba. The headquarters and eight companies of the Fifteenth Infantry, now in Santiago and Puerto Principe province, Cuba, are ordered to be available for service at the headquarters of the Tenth Cavalry, now in Texas, and four companies to go to Plattsburg barracks and the remaining battalion to Governor's Island, N. Y. The latter will relieve the present battery of the Fifth Artillery, at present stationed at Governor's Island, making it available for service at some other point on the coast. One squadron of the Eighth Cavalry, also stationed at Puerto Principe, is ordered to be available for service at the headquarters of the Tenth Cavalry, now in Texas, and four companies to go to Plattsburg barracks and the remaining battalion to Governor's Island, N. Y. The latter will relieve the present battery of the Fifth Artillery, at present stationed at Governor's Island, making it available for service at some other point on the coast. One squadron of the Eighth Cavalry, also stationed at Puerto Principe, is ordered to be available for service at the headquarters of the Tenth Cavalry, now in Texas, and four companies to go to Plattsburg barracks and the remaining battalion to Governor's Island, N. Y. The latter will relieve the present battery of the Fifth Artillery, at present stationed at Governor's Island, making it available for service at some other point on the coast.

### PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

Nearly Nine Hundred Bills and Resolutions Introduced in the House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The rush of bills in the House of Representatives today was the greatest in the memory of House officials, the total being 861 bills, public and private, and thirty resolutions.

Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, introduced a resolution for the creation of a committee of seventeen members, to be chosen as the House of Representatives, to "fairly," to have jurisdiction over "affairs concerning insular territory owned and occupied under treaty with Spain, of Dec. 10, 1898, including the Island of Tutuila, Samoa." The resolution also provided that the committee shall be privileged.

Representative Corliss, of Michigan, introduced a bill for a Pacific cable, to be built by the government, to Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan and China, at a limit of cost of \$3,000,000, of which \$2,000,000 is immediately available. The route and general control is placed under a Pacific cable commission, including postmaster general and the chief signal officer of the army.

Among the joint resolutions introduced were those of Representative W. A. Smith, of Michigan, for a Pan-American conference to discuss the relations of the United States to the world, and the secretary of state to German adulteration of wines and German discrimination against American beef, fruit and horses, providing for a reciprocity commission, and calling for information as to the nonbuilding of naval vessels on the great lakes.

Mr. Burton, of Ohio, introduced a joint resolution for the abrogation of the treaty of 1842 with Great Britain so far as it restricted the building of warships on the great lakes.

Other joint resolutions were: By Mr. Ketchum, of New York, for a constitutional amendment against church or ecclesiastical appropriations by States; by Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, for a constitutional amendment authorizing an income tax; by Mr. Corliss, of Michigan, for the election of representatives from Massachusetts; by Mr. Roberts, of Massachusetts, constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to limit the number of members in the House.

Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. Elliott, for an investigation of the cause of yellow fever.

### THE CABINET MEETING.

Financial Conditions in Porto Rico Discussed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The Cabinet meeting today was largely devoted to a discussion of the financial conditions in Porto Rico. A letter from the governor of Porto Rico, Secretary Gage from prominent business men in the island calling attention to the great fluctuations in the price of the Spanish peso, which is yet the money of the island. At times when the island is shipping its products, which principally come to the United States, American money is quite plentiful and the exchange value of the peso is high. At such times the value of the peso is 62 cents, or even more in American money. It frequently happens, however, that the exchange value drops to 55 cents and even lower. The petitioners ask this government to take such measures as will establish a more uniform value for the peso, and thus protect the best interests of all concerned. It is said that there are only about 5,500,000 of these pesos in existence on the island. Although this amount is small, it is sufficient to disturb the financial situation of the island and yet it is in the power of the executive department of the government to afford any relief. It is said no remedy can be applied until the Congress meets. The attention of Congress will likely be called to this matter when the subject of a future government for Porto Rico is under discussion.

### Patents Awarded Indianians.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Patents were issued to Indianians today as follows: James A. Beecher, Mishawaka, duplex chucking lathe; Franz Burger, Fort Wayne, flushing machine; William Chester, Crawfordville, pneumatic slacker; Samuel Dean, Topeka, carpenter's gauge; Mason B. Gibson, Muncie, car roller-bearing for lawn mowers; Reinhold A. Miller, Jr., Indianapolis, folding show-book; Seydewitz, Chicago, roller; McCordville, telephone switchboard; Jesse Quigley, Hammond, bust form; Henderson, Chicago, roller; Robert F. Strobel, Cannelton, tag holder; Thomas G. Welch, Peabody, head-dress for children; George W. Welch, Peabody, frame for forming wire-face stents; David E. Spencer, Muncie, combined flour and oatmeal mill.

### Training of Indian Children.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Miss Estell Reel, general superintendent of Indian schools, has been ordered to make a study of a strong plea for compulsory education and advocates strictly industrial training for Indian children. She says the industrial branch of the work should be forced to the front, and that the educational should be reduced to the simple, practical elements. The educational outlook for the Indians is not bright, she says. The industrial training has been provided this year. The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his annual report, makes a strong plea for compulsory education and advocates strictly industrial training for Indian children. She says the industrial branch of the work should be forced to the front, and that the educational should be reduced to the simple, practical elements. The educational outlook for the Indians is not bright, she says. The industrial training has been provided this year. The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his annual report, makes a strong plea for compulsory education and advocates strictly industrial training for Indian children.

### Special Census Agents.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The director of the census today made the following appointments of special agents in charge of designated groups of inquiries: Franklin Allen, of New York city, secretary American Silk Association, expert special agent in charge of silk manufacture statistics; Charles W. Allen, of New York city, secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, as special agent in charge of wool manufacture statistics; George W. Allen, of New York city, secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, in charge of statistics of wool, petroleum, lead, copper and other metals; George W. Allen, of New York city, secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, in charge of statistics of leather and iron products; George W. Allen, of New York city, secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, in charge of statistics of leather and iron products.

### Remains of Maine Victims.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Assistant Secretary Allen has received a letter from Capt. J. G. Greene, commandant of the naval station at Havana, saying that contracts have been executed for exhuming the remains of the dead of the battleship Maine, buried in the Cementery at Arlington, and that they can be removed to the United States at any time after the 15th inst. The battleship Maine, which was blown up in Havana harbor, and the remains of the crew, are now on her way from Brunswick, Ga., to Hampton Roads, where they will be buried. The remains of the crew, which were taken from the ship when it was blown up, are now on her way from Brunswick, Ga., to Hampton Roads, where they will be buried. The remains of the crew, which were taken from the ship when it was blown up, are now on her way from Brunswick, Ga., to Hampton Roads, where they will be buried.

### No Married Women Wanted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—First Assistant Postmaster General Harris, in a decision today, has ruled that the position of postmaster is open only to single men. He has decided that the department has decided it will be incompatible with the best interests of the service to employ married women as postoffice clerks. The department has therefore ruled that when a female postoffice clerk is appointed it will be necessary for her to resign from the service.

### Postmasters Under this Ruling Hereafter.

Will have to call for the resignation of such employees and recommend their successors to the department.

### Russian Gold Fields for Lease.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Mr. Pierce, the United States charge at St. Petersburg, has agreed to the State Department a mass of additional details respecting the new policy of the Russian government of leasing by auction the gold mining territory in Siberia. The leasing is to be for a term of years, not only the formal conditions of contracts, but also the results of an expeditionary force to the territory, and the leasing is to be for a term of years, not only the formal conditions of contracts, but also the results of an expeditionary force to the territory, and the leasing is to be for a term of years, not only the formal conditions of contracts, but also the results of an expeditionary force to the territory.

### Dewey Rents a Church Pew.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Admiral Dewey has rented a pew in the fashionable St. John's Episcopal Church, of which Rev. Mackay Smith is pastor. He has also been chosen trustee of the Episcopal Temple, on the Tenallytown road.

### Call for Bank Statements.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The controller of the currency has issued a call on national banks for a statement of their conditions at the close of business on Saturday, Dec. 2.

### General Notes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Today's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, \$28,110,104; gold reserve, \$28,066,977.

### Refer to the Taxation of a Judgment Note Under Seal.

An instrument under seal, an instrument to be in compliance with certain States, the commissioner of Internal revenue has held that it was not the intention of Congress to tax such an instrument under seal other than ordinary promissory notes not under seal.

### Snow Delays Street Cars.

BUFFALO, Dec. 5.—A heavy snowstorm has prevailed here all day, accompanied by high winds. Street-car traffic has been delayed. The storm has not yet interfered with steam roads.

### WEATHER FORECAST.

Fair and warmer to-day, with fresh southerly winds.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Forecast for Wednesday and Thursday:

For Ohio—Generally fair on Wednesday and on Thursday; diminishing southwest winds, shifting to northwesterly.

For Indiana—Fair to-day, with warmer on Wednesday; Thursday fair; fresh southerly winds.

### Local Observations on Tuesday.

Bar. Ther. R.H. Wind. Weather. Precip.

10 a.m. 29.21 34.0 70 0.00 Clear.

1 p.m. 29.08 37.0 70 0.00 Clear.

Maximum temperature, 37; minimum temperature, 29.

Following is a comparative statement of the mean temperature and total precipitation Dec. 5:

Normal 32.0 0.11

Mean 32.0 0.11

Departure from normal 0.0 0.00

Departure since Dec. 1—19 -0.24

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